

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This letter is responsive to the Office Action mailed on June 18, 2004. The claims have been amended in response to the outstanding Office Action. No new matter has been added by the amendments.

Claims 1, 3 to 47, and 56 to 63, are currently pending in the application. Claims 48 to 52 and claims 53 to 55 have been cancelled. New claims 56 to 63 corresponding to previously cancelled claims 48 to 55 have been added.

Specification Objected To

The Examiner has objected to the title of the invention because it is not descriptive. The Applicant has amended the title to better describe the invention. Accordingly, the Applicant submits that this informality noted by the Examiner has been remedied and the associated objection should be withdrawn.

Claims 23 to 25, 46 and 47 are Objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c)

The Examiner has objected to claims 23 to 25, 46 and 47 under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim.

In response, the Applicant has amended claims 23 to 25, 46 and 47 to depend on a single claim instead of multiple claims.

The Applicant respectfully submits that claims 23 to 25, 46 and 47, as amended are not in improper form and withdrawal of the Examiner's objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 40 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 40 and 41 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner stated that in claim 40 there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation "the minor rotation axis" and "the major rotation axis". In respect of claim 41, the Examiner stated that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation "the major rotation axis" and "first shaft rotation axis".

In response, Applicant has amended claims 40 and 41. Specifically, the Applicant has amended claim 40 to depend from claim 38 which provides an antecedent basis for "the minor rotation axis" and "the major rotation axis". Claim 41 has been amended to depend from claim 38 which provides an antecedent basis for "the major rotation axis" and "first shaft rotation axis".

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 40 and 41 as amended, are not indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112 and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5-7, 10-12, 14-15, 27-30, 35 and 37-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) in view of Wada et al.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 5 to 7, 10 to 12, 14, 15, 27 to 30, 35 and 37 to 41 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Wada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,714,236).

Specifically, the Examiner has stated that Wada et al. discloses in Figures 9 and 10 a composite camera for use in a security camera system. The security camera system includes a pair of supports (113) for holding the image capture device (102) (col. 2, lines 63-67). In addition, the security camera system includes a processing device (70) that

detects a motion from the pictures taken by a composite camera (61) and checks the current monitoring place of the composite camera (61) thus determining an object location value for the object based on digital images (Wada et al., col. 9, lines 44-53). The composite camera (61) serves as a position control device for rotating the supports (113) and the image capture device (102) about two axes so that the object remains within a center region of the digitized image frames and it is coupled to the support (113) (Wada et al., col. 9, lines 49-63 and FIG. 9, 10). The composite camera (61) includes a base (107) for generating a first rotational movement (pan) based on the object location and a first rotational member (103) connected to the first motor (24) for rotation about a first axis (Wada et al., col. 2, line 63 - col. 3, line 57). Additionally, the composite camera (61) includes a second motor (28) mounted on the base (107) for generating a second rotational movement (tilt) based on the object location and a second rotational member (105) connected to the second motor (28) for rotation about the second axis (Wada et al., col. 2, line 63 - col. 3, line 57).

In response, the Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 27 to better define the invention and to clarify the distinction between this invention and the cited prior art references.

Specifically, independent claims 1 and 27 have been amended to more specifically define an image tracking system and method comprising of an image capture device having a support, a processing device, a position control device coupled to the support comprising of a base, a first motor providing a first rotational movement to the image capture device about a first axis and, a second motor providing a second rotational movement to the image capture device about a second axis, wherein the first motor comprises a first shaft member having a first shaft rotation axis longitudinally concentric with the first shaft member, and the second motor comprises a second shaft member having a second shaft rotation axis longitudinally concentric with the second shaft member, such that the first shaft rotation axis and the second shaft rotation axis are motionless and fixed relative to one another, such that when the first shaft member rotates the second shaft rotation axis remain fixed relative to the first shaft rotation axis.

Support for this amendment can be found in the present disclosure at page 11, line 30 to page 12 line 15, page 14, line 4 to line 24, and FIGS. 3A, 13A, 13B.

In contrast, the security camera system disclosed in Wada et al. does not disclose a relationship between the first shaft rotation axis and the second shaft rotation axis such that when the first shaft member rotates the second shaft rotation axis remain fixed relative to the first shaft rotation axis.

Moreover, it is submitted that this feature is not disclosed in any of the other cited prior art. While the Examiner has stated that Kahn shows in Figure 2 a cross-sectional front view of a pan/tilt mount used for panning and tilting a camera (Kahn, col. 3, lines 24-25). The pan/tilt mount is driven by a pan motor (20) and a tilt motor (19) (Kahn, col. 4, lines 53-56). The Examiner states that the first motor (20) includes a first shaft member (41) having an axis that is concentric with the first shaft member (41) and the second motor (19) includes a second shaft member (32) having an axis that is concentric with the second shaft member (32) (Kahn, col. 3, lines 48-53; col. 4, lines 12-18 and FIG. 2). Also, the Examiner states that the axis of the first shaft member (41) and the axis of the second shaft member (32) are motionless and fixed relative to one another since when the first shaft member (41) rotates and starts a pan action the second shaft member (32) rotates relative to the first shaft member (Kahn, col. 3, line 24 – col. 4, line 34 and FIG. 2). The Examiner stated that it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to have been motivated to include the pan and tilt motor configuration as taught in Kahn.

In response, the Applicant respectfully submits that the pan and tilt motor configuration as taught in Kahn is substantially different than the configuration claimed in claim 1, as amended. Claim 1 now requires the first shaft rotation axis and the second shaft rotation axis to be motionless and fixed relative to one another such that when the first shaft member rotates the second shaft rotation axis remain fixed relative to the first shaft rotation axis. In contrast, in the pan and tilt motor configuration in Kahn, the first shaft rotation axis moves relative to the second shaft rotation axis as the first shaft member rotates (Kahn, FIG. 2).

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter claimed in independent claims 1 and 27 is not taught nor suggested by the Wada et al. reference. It is further submitted that claims 5 to 7, 10 to 12, 14, 15, 28 to 30, 35, and 37 to 41, as amended recite additional patentable features which are neither taught nor suggested by the Wada et al. reference. Withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 36 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Wada et al.

The Examiner has rejected claims 36 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of Wada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,714,236).

Specifically, in respect of claim 36, the Examiner stated that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention for the security system disclosed by Wada et al. to include multiple composite video cameras.

In respect of claim 41, the Examiner stated that the claim for the major rotation axis being stationary relative to the first shaft rotation axis (FIG. 9, 10) is obvious in view of Wada et al.

The Applicant respectfully submits that claims 36 and 41 of the present invention are not obvious in view of Wada et al. as claims 36 and 41 depend on claim 27 of the present invention, as amended. For the reasons discussed above, in respect of independent claim 27, as amended, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter claimed in claims 36 and 41 of the present invention are not taught nor suggested by the Wada et al. reference.

Accordingly, the Applicant submits that claims 36 and 41 are not obvious in view of the Wada et al. reference. Withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2 to 4, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Wada et al. and Kahn

The Examiner rejected claims 2 to 4, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,714,236) as applied to claims 1 and 7 in view of Kahn (U.S. Patent No. 5,802,412).

The Applicant has cancelled claim 2.

The Applicant respectfully submits that claims 4, 8, and 9 of the present invention are not obvious in view of Wada et al. and Kahn as claims 4, 8, and 9 depend on claim 1 of the present invention, as amended. For the reasons discussed above, in respect of independent claim 1, as amended, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter claimed in claims 4, 8, and 9 of the present invention are not taught nor suggested by the Wada et al. or Kahn references.

Accordingly, the Applicant submits that claims 4, 8, and 9 are not obvious in view of the Wada et al. and Kahn references. Withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 16 to 22 and 42 to 45 have been allowed. The Applicant agrees that claims 16 to 22 and 42 to 45 are not taught nor suggested by the Wada et al. or Kahn references or any other cited reference.

New Claims

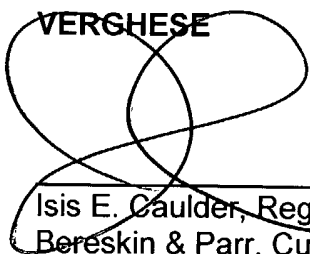
The Applicant has introduced new claims 56 to 63 into the application which correspond to canceled claims 48 to 55. New claims 56 to 63 now depend, at least in part, on claim 3 of the present invention. For the reasons discussed above, in respect of independent

claim 1, as amended, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter claimed in claims 56 to 63 of the present invention are not taught nor suggested by any of the cited references.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance and requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

VERGHESE



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